

ELECTRONIC MAIL CONTROL SYSTEM

Abstract

An electronic mail system provides one or more approvers with approval
5 authority over electronic mail of a user. The approvers have the opportunity to approve
an incoming electronic mail message before the message is delivered to the user, and
have the opportunity to approve an outgoing electronic mail message by the user before
the message is sent to its intended recipient. Messages can be approved or rejected
automatically, using filters, or through actions by an approver. Rejected incoming
10 messages are not delivered to the user. Rejected outgoing messages are not sent to the
intended recipient. Mail to be approved can be synchronized for consistency among
multiple approvers. The user whose mail is to be approved can access the mail from
multiple locations, with the mail at each location synchronized to appear in the same
folders.

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